Batch and Grow

Roadmap

American Farmland Trust
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Steps to Success

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Start Here

Key

Federal Funding
Important steps to complete if using NRCS or other federal funding sources.

Toolbox
Resource templates are available online at the Farmland Information Center.

What is Batch and Grow?

The Batch and Grow Cover Crop Program is a cover crop delivery model that removes barriers of adoption for farmers and streamlines the purchase of seed and planting of cover crops in a local area. Dubuque County, Iowa, first deployed a Batch and Grow model in 2024 with funding from United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), led by the Sand County Foundation. The program was expanded to Illinois in 2025 by American Farmland Trust (AFT), supporting cover crop adoption via farmer-led groups.

Inspired by the innovative "Batch and Build" model of structural practice installation piloted in Polk County, Iowa, "Batch and Grow" utilizes a similar method to increase efficiency of conservation practice delivery while equipping farmer-led groups to design cover crop programs that best suit local needs. Enrolled acres are "batched" and the farmer-led group contracts seed and custom application from a select number of providers, removing several barriers of adoption for farmers. The model relies on the leadership of farmer-led groups who are responsible for selecting which cover crop species or mixes to offer, fields to prioritize, and service providers to contract.

Paired with regular meetings where farmers come together to ask for advice and learn from the experiences of others, the Batch and Grow model drives conservation practice adoption by addressing time constraints commonly identified by farmers (i.e. cover crop establishment often coincides with harvest activities). Farmers who are both new and experienced with cover crops can benefit from Batch and Grow by learning from their peers or trying out a new application method or seed mix.

AFT has developed this Roadmap to support other organizations as they explore opportunities to replicate this model in their local area. It is not intended to be exhaustive, but instead offers a general framework and lessons learned for those considering the development of a Batch and Grow cover crop program in their area.

As mentioned previously, AFT launched its Batch and Grow program with financial assistance coming from USDA-NRCS, specifically through an Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA) RCPP. Funds coming from USDA, and generally any public funding source, have specific criteria that must be considered. Through this document, key considerations associated with AFA-RCPP funds have been distinguished using **bolded green text and an icon.**

Securing public funding is not required for a successful program. Alternative funding models could include private funding sources or the pooling of individual farmers' resources to administer a Batch and Grow program.

Benefits of Batch and Grow

Cost Comparison Table

Location and Mix[1,2]	Component	2025 Batch and Grow avg cost per acre[3]	Combined avg cost per acre	2025 EQIP payment per acre[4]
DCW: Multi-species winter hardy	Seed Application	$22.32 $22.00	$44.32	$79.05
DCW: Multi-species winter kill	Seed Application	$22.65 $22.00	$44.65	$45.85
IL: Single-species winter hardy	Seed Application	$17.56 $22.90	$40.46	$64.24
IL: Multi-species winter hardy	Seed Application	$17.80 $17.37	$35.17	$79.05
IL: Multi-species winter kill	Seed Application	$26.26 $16.42	$42.68	$45.85

Data illustrates the potential cost savings of batching cover crop seed and application as compared to EQIP payment rates. Savings ranged from 3% on DCW multi-species winter kill to 56% on IL multi-species winter hardy.

1. *DCW = Dubuque County Watersheds; IL = combination of all farmer-led groups in Illinois.*
2. *Individual cover crop species included in "multi-species" mixes varied across locations.*
3. *Batch and Grow average cost calculated using total seed and total application costs divided by total acres per type of cover crop.*
4. *EQIP payment rates provided by NRCS for Iowa and Illinois.*

Common Barriers	Batch and Grow Solutions
Financial risk and high cost of cover crop seed and application.	Potential cost savings via bulk seed orders and increased acreage for custom applicator. **With NRCS funding, cover crops are seeded at no (or reduced) cost to the farmer.**
Uncertainty of which cover crop to plant.	Seed species and mixes are pre-selected by local, experienced farmers.
Lack of technical assistance.	Farmers with conservation experience share knowledge with their peers, and local supporting organization (e.g. AFT) provides technical assistance.
Time-consuming to plant cover crops during harvest season.	Seed dealers and drill/drone operators are contracted by Farmer-Led Group or Local Support Organization.

Defining Batch and Grow Roles

Local Support Organizations *(LSOs)*

Local Support Organizations (LSOs) provide logistical coordination and financial management for the program. LSOs should support farmer recruitment, coordination of FLG meetings and events, and procurement of seed and application services. The LSO may serve as the fiscal agent to process payments to contractors and reimbursements from the primary funding source.

The LSO could be a local conservation district, non-profit organization, small business, or municipality. Different entities may have different levels of capacity and ability to support FLG activities. Broad outreach and program advertisement are relatively low time commitments, while tasks like planning and facilitating meetings, one-on-one outreach, and assisting with program applications are higher time commitments. **It is helpful for the LSO to have someone on staff certified to meet NRCS standards (see Obtain Federal Funding Approval), typically a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or Technical Service Provider (TSP).** LSOs should determine which tasks they are able to lead, which tasks the FLGs can manage on their own, and whether additional partners are needed to fill in the gaps.

Farmer-Led Groups *(FLG)*

Farmer-Led Groups are a critical component of the Batch and Grow model. FLGs should be the primary decision-making entity throughout the process: leading decisions on resource concerns and priority geographies, defining group membership, selecting cover crop species and mixes, and choosing seed dealers and applicators to contract. The most successful groups have at least five farmers who actively participate in FLG activities, including attending meetings, recruiting additional farmers to participate in the Batch and Grow program, and hosting workshops and field days for farmer-to-farmer networking and peer learning. The FLG should have at least one farmer serving as the primary contact for the group.

Recruit Farmers and Identify Program Opportunities

Begin 3 to 6 months before application (approximately 10-12 months before anticipated seeding dates)

A great way to begin a Batch and Grow Program is by working with existing farmer groups or connecting with individual farmer leaders in your target geography.

Objectives:

- ***Define geography, ideal participants, and resource concerns.***
- ***Develop contact list of potential participants.***

Important Considerations:

- Local connections go a long way. Is there a local farmer leader or group to assist with farmer recruitment and outreach? This will be instrumental to a successful program down the road.
- Are there local funding sources that could help you achieve this program to cover costs for farmers? If not, farmers could pool resources and LSOs could charge individual farmers based on acreage and seed mix.
- Consider pros and cons of using federal funds for your project. It's best to understand your state's NRCS structure. For example, will you be working directly with the state office or the local office in your area? How will that impact your project?

Steps to Success:

1. **Identify priority watersheds or geographic regions.**
2. **Identify any existing farmer networks already in place.**
   - Check with the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), grassroots farmer groups, local ag retailers, etc.
   - Connect with farmers at regional networking events.
   - Connect with local organizations to gather contact information of farmer leaders and group members.
3. **If there is not an organized farmer-led group in your area, connect with local partners to gather suggestions for potential farmer leaders.**
4. **Get in touch with existing or potential farmer leaders to gauge their interest in bringing a Batch and Grow program to their area.**

Field Insights: The Importance of Setting Boundaries

Agreeing on the geographic boundaries of your project is a critical first step. Will your project be based on a natural boundary (e.g. watershed) or a geographic boundary (e.g. county)? Regardless of which one you pick, there will be farmers and fields that fall outside of that boundary, and having clear boundaries helps communicate which farms are eligible and allows for targeted and efficient promotions.

While larger geographies offer the chance to support more farmers, smaller geographies may result in greater impact – i.e. higher concentration of cover crops in a small watershed has a greater likelihood of improving water quality vs. spreading those acres over an entire county.

If the farmer-led group wants to revise the boundaries, it is best to do that between application cycles so you can clearly communicate eligibility and target promotions to farms in the new area.

Set Goals

Complete 2 months before application (approximately 9 months before seeding date)

Work with the farmer group to set goals for the Batch and Grow program.

Objectives:

- ***Determine FLG goals and leadership structure.***
- ***Determine NRCS requirements/constraints.***
- ***Set program timeline for planting year.***

Important Considerations:

- Ensure there is enough flexibility in the timeline for possible delays in process.
- Does the FLG need outside assistance to select cover crop varieties?
  - Is there a local trusted advisor / cover crop expert the FLG would like to consult with?
  - Does your organization or a partner organization have an agronomist or Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) on staff who could provide guidance?
  - The Midwest Cover Crops Council has a selector tool on their website to assist with species and mix selection across the region.

Field Insights:

Batch and Grow is a tool to engage new farmers and expand cover crop adoption.

Farmers thinking about cover crops for the first time will find Batch and Grow an attractive option. Some of the ways that Batch and Grow reduces or eliminates common challenges are summarized on Page 3, and farmers in AFT's 2025 program agreed. More than half of the farmers enrolled in Batch and Grow had less than three years of experience with cover crops, and 26% were first timers.

Aerial seeding allowed for more diverse cover crops, with 75% of participants seeding multi-species mixes. There was also a significant number of cover crop acres planted before corn: 3,800 of the 8,100 acres, or 47%, were seeded before corn. One farmer stated, "I feel comfortable trying covers ahead of corn for the first time through this program."

Steps to Success:

1 Meet with farmers to establish the FLG.

- Determine specific program goals. If helpful, **utilize a Decision Making Framework or Group Declaration Form.**
- Determine FLG membership requirements. Some groups may decide to require applicants to pay a small fee, which sustains administrative and outreach costs for the program.
- Identify primary contacts for FLG and LSO and preferred communication methods.

2 FLG decides on target geography and conservation concerns.

- Identify resource concerns.

3 Contact state NRCS leadership to introduce the program and determine their process and timeline for eligibility and approvals.

4 FLG determines cover crop varieties and application methods.

- For the first year of the program, AFT recommends using NRCS seeding rates and seeding window dates for ease and simplicity.
- Consider whether components of selected seed mixes (i.e. seed sizes) are compatible with preferred application method. May be helpful to consult with an applicator ahead of time.
- **Work with your state NRCS official to ensure seeding rates, mixtures, and seeding dates meet CPS-340 standards for your state. Pre-approval is required for any alternatives that are not included in the standard NRCS practice menu.**

5 Determine timeline for application opening, closing, acceptance email, farmer acknowledgment, and seeding start dates.

- Ensure 8-12 weeks from application closing to seeding start date to ensure all paperwork is finalized.

6 Develop a rubric of acceptance priorities for the FLG to use when reviewing applicants.

- Does the group want to prioritize new cover crop acres?
- Will fields with highly erodible land or fields next to streams be prioritized?
- Will applications be accepted outside of the priority watershed?
- Are there other requirements to participate in the program? For example, in Illinois many groups require applicants to complete a Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources (STAR) field form.
- Some groups may decide to prioritize "official" FLG members.
- **To meet NRCS standards, the cover crop practice must meet planning criteria for the intended resource concern and be an improvement over the producer's existing management. For producers already using cover crops, this may include enhancements such as a more diverse seed mix, planting cover crops earlier, or using different seeding methods.**

7 Determine the verification process for cover crop seeding. See Verification section on Page 13.

Prepare the Application

Complete 1 month before application opens (approximately 8 months before seeding date)

The application form is the primary way to gather information from interested farmers. Design the application based on FLG goals, keeping in mind any relevant funding requirements.

Objective:

- ***Create the application for Batch and Grow enrollment.***

Important Considerations:

- Is the application simple with a limited number of questions for farmers' ease of completion?
- Has the application been reviewed by farmers?
- Is all the necessary information included? Gathering missing or additional information from farmers after they complete the application can be very difficult!
- Ask if farmers are interested in additional support such as technical assistance. Include additional information so the next steps are clear.
- Create a system to track where farmer applications are in the process – **see spreadsheet template** included in the toolbox.

Information to Collect in Application:

- Personal Contact Information (Name, phone number, email, etc.)
- Goals of using cover crops (e.g. reduce erosion, improve soil health, increase nutrient cycling, suppress weeds)
- Number of years using cover crops
- Current cash crop
- Upcoming cash crop
- Cover crop species or mix selection (recommended to complement upcoming cash crop)
- Termination process, if choosing a winter hardy mix
- **Farm entity name**
- **County FSA office for each field**
- **Confirm field is not enrolled in another (publicly funded) program for cover crops**
- **Confirm FSA paperwork is updated for current fiscal year**

Steps to Success:

1 Review goals and practice concerns identified by the FLG.

2 Determine the platform you will use for your application.

- Examples include online enrollment forms (e.g. Google Forms), mapping portal (e.g. ArcGIS Survey 123), and paper forms. See table summarizing different platforms and choose the option that aligns with the complexity of your program.
- Consider existing data management tools that farmers in the area are using for maps, in-field management information, etc. Is there an opportunity to utilize those platforms?

Platform	Strengths	Weaknesses	Best for
Online enrollment form (e.g. Google Forms)	Can customize questions; straightforward user experience; easily share and export data into spreadsheet.	Obtaining map / geospatial data will require additional steps.	Most groups.
Mapping portal (e.g. ArcGIS Survey 123)	Seamlessly integrates mapping feature, ensuring that LSO and applicators have field locations.	Higher user complexity due to mapping interface; customizing questions may be more difficult.	Groups working with LSOs that bring GIS expertise and / or groups requiring detailed geospatial data.
Paper Forms	Low-tech: doesn't require computer or internet to enroll.	Need separate step to compile acres; need to convert paper maps to digital format for applicator use.	Small number of farmers, or a group of farmers who are not working with a supporting organization.

3 Create the application.

- **Use the template included in the Toolbox or start from scratch.**
- Determine information needed and add applicable questions.
- Ensure space for farmers to enroll multiple fields using the same application.

4 Send draft application to FLG for review by farmer leaders.

- Incorporate feedback from farmer leaders as needed.

5 Create Pre-Application Checklist:

- Prepare a list of eligibility requirements for the program and require confirmation from farmers before beginning the application.
  - Consider eligibility restrictions related to the funding source of practice payments.
- Include a list of documents the farmers should have at the ready once they begin the application based on requirements of your program.

Hire Contractors

2-3 months before seeding

Written contracts with seed providers and custom applicators are essential and ensure that seeding, notification, and verification requirements are clearly communicated.

Objectives:

- ***Ensure alignment on program responsibilities with LSOs.***
- ***Procure seed and application services.***
- ***Establish collaborators, processes, and payment methods for program implementation.***

Important Considerations:

- Understand current and existing business relationships among farmers and local seed and applicator businesses.
- Remember that the cheapest bid is not always the best one. Consider FLG priorities and goals throughout the selection process.
- How will you coordinate seed delivery to the applicator? Is the applicator able to pick up and store the seed? Does the seed provider deliver seed to the field?
  - It may be easier to contract with only the seed applicator and require the applicator to procure the seed on their own. This model requires the applicators to cover upfront seed costs, which may be a financial burden to participating in the program. Applicators may add an additional fee to cover the administrative efforts required to procure seed.
- If you have a good experience with your seed dealer or applicator, include a clause in the contract allowing for one year renewal with FLG approval. This will avoid the need to go through an RFP process each year if you are satisfied with the contractor's work.

Steps to Success:

1. **Determine payment structure and timeline for working with contractors.**
2. **Develop Request for Proposal to attract bids from local seed dealers and applicators (e.g. drone / airplane operators).**
   - For seed dealers, specify PLS considerations. See "Coordinate Cover Crop Implementation" for more details.
   - For drone applicators, consider the seeding capacity of each drone in a single day. Not all drones are the same. In the RFP, ask if they will be able to seed the required fields within the seeding window and required seeding rates.
   - Ask if contractors are able to store the seed, if necessary. Getting the seed from the dealer to the applicator may be logistically challenging.
3. **Share RFP with FLG and local entities to gather bids.**
4. **Share received bid info and summary, if necessary, with FLG.**
5. **FLG selects seed dealer(s) and custom application operator(s).**
   - Working with local dealers supports local businesses and infrastructure for conservation practice adoption.
   - If aerial seeding, check for appropriate and up to date FAA licensing.
6. **Develop contract for selected vendors, including detailed list of expectations for both parties.**
   - Have signed contracts with local agents and vendors before work begins.
   - Include reporting expectations and **invoicing templates.**
   - Clarify whether seed dealers will need to save seed tags to include in reporting.

Field Insights: Selecting the number of seed providers and custom applicators

Contracting seed and custom application on thousands of acres is a big decision and has ripple effects. Farmer groups are encouraged to consider the local community and business capacity when choosing seed providers and custom applicators.

In AFT's 2025 program, one group elected to get seed and custom application from the local co-op. They appreciated the "one-stop-shop" approach and found it very easy to coordinate.

Another group elected to secure seed from a local farmer starting a cover crop seed business and a local "farm kid" just starting a drone business. Supporting local and emerging businesses fosters a sense of community.

A third group contracted drone application from multiple operators in order to "spread the wealth," which also spread the workload and ensured that all of the acres could be covered in a timely manner.

Enroll Farmers

Complete 3 months before seeding

It is essential to promote your Batch and Grow program during the application period to ensure that farmers in your target geography are aware.

Objectives:

- ***Farmer outreach and recruitment.***
- ***Farmers complete Batch and Grow application.***

Important Considerations:

- Will farmers be encouraged to sign up on their own? Will they need support from the LSOs?
  - A working knowledge of the platforms farmers use for other programs is beneficial, as it allows LSOs to draw comparisons and help make the enrollment process more intuitive and accessible.
  - Those who are new to farming or new to enrolling in conservation programs may have less experience completing online applications and may need more support.
  - Consider staff time needed if LSOs plan to support or complete farmer enrollment.
- Be mindful of farming schedules! An application period that overlaps planting season will make it harder to enroll farmers.

Steps to Success:

1. **Determine who is leading farmer recruitment.**

2. **Share the application with the farmer-led group.**
   - If possible, host an in-person meeting to walk through the application process with the FLG so farmers can see the simplicity and have a chance to ask questions.
   - Promote the application by posting fliers, including content in newsletters, sharing on social media, etc.
   - The LSO can support enrollment by personally reaching out to farmers.
   - Encourage the FLG to share with family, friends, and neighbors.

3. **Provide confirmation message after application is submitted.**
   - Include a copy of the application with a confirmation email.
   - Include information on acceptance process and program timeline.

4. **If using NRCS funding, all farmers must meet USDA eligibility requirements.**
   - For each farmer, the local FSA office must have the following on file for the calendar year that the cover crops will be applied:
     - Updated Farm Operating Plan (Form 902)
     - Adjusted Gross Income (Form 941)

Approve Applications

Complete within 2 weeks after application close (approximately 3 months before seeding)

Comparing applications against the FLG goals and priorities ensures effective use of resources.

Objective:

- ***Accept farmers and corresponding fields into the Batch and Grow program.***

Important Considerations:

- If aerial seeding is the chosen application method, all fields must be accessible to drone or airplane. Consider tree lines, poles, and wires. Accessibility should be considered when reviewing and accepting applicants to participate in the program.
- **Ensure FSA acres and farmer application acres are the same total number of acres for the field.**

Steps to Success:

1. **Review applications for completeness.**
2. **Refer to Section B of the FLG Decision Making Framework to evaluate and prioritize applicants.**
3. **FLG selects and approves farmers and fields for participation in the program.**
   - Ensure total acreage and funding limits are being considered.
4. **Notify farmers on status of application and next steps.**
   - Request confirmation from selected farmers that they are interested in moving forward with the program.
5. **Either issue a formal contract with participating farmers or specify that written confirmation of application will serve as confirmation of their participation. Clarify that no response to their preferred method of contact by a certain date is cause for removal from consideration.**

Obtain Federal Funding Approval

(If Applicable)

Begin 2-3 months before seeding to ensure completion 2 weeks before seeding

If public funding is used to cover the Batch and Grow program, ensure that you review and comply with all relevant criteria, including steps to confirm farmers are eligible.

Objective:

- *Ensure NRCS / FSA approval for enrolled fields.*

Important Consideration:

- Is the process in your area or state different from the process in Illinois? How will that impact your timeline and capacity for NRCS approval?

Field Insights: Skin in the game

Farmers may be more invested in the long-term success of their cover crop journey if they are responsible for a portion of the cost.

Dubuque County Watersheds experimented with this by requiring Batch and Grow farmer participants to pay $10/acre. While this is a fraction of the total cost, it helped stretch public funding further. Additionally, the "buy-in" approach raises the stakes for farmers and encourages them to carefully integrate cover crops into their management systems.

Consider funding constraints and farmer willingness to pay if deciding to charge a small fee to participants.

Steps to Success:

1. Applicants need to agree to allow NRCS/FSA to share eligibility information with the lead partner. Work with NRCS/FSA to ensure wording meets their requirements.
2. LSO asks local NRCS office to verify that FSA acres (including farm, tract, and field numbers) are eligible.
3. LSO requests FSA acres and compares farmer applicants' acres to ensure correct farm data is used.
4. Once the farmer is verified by FSA as eligible, the CPA-52s can be filled out by an NRCS approved person. Identify a certified individual to fill out CPA-52 forms for each farmer.
   - Usually, a CCA or TSP is able to do this.
   - This can vary by state, so check with your state NRCS leadership.
   - It may be possible to use one CPA-52 form for multiple farmers, based on similar crop systems, resource concerns, and cover crop selection. Check with the local NRCS office to confirm.
5. Submit completed CPA-52s to NRCS for approval.
   - Verify with state NRCS leadership if completed CPA-52s are to be sent to local field offices or through a different channel.
   - Save a copy of the signed CPA-52 for your records.
6. Once complete, LSO sends CPA-52s to NRCS for approval.

Coordinate Cover Crop Implementation

Complete within set NRCS seeding window.

It's best to identify a single point person responsible for coordinating with the seed dealer and the applicator. Ensure there are clear lines of communication and farmers are informed of planting windows.

Objective:

- ***LSO point of contact, farmers, and contractors are in communication to ensure cover crops are seeded within the designated timeframe.***

Important Considerations:

- It is crucial to consider weather when planning for aerial seeding. Seeding should be completed ahead of light to moderate rain events before long spells of drought, especially for winter kill cover crops.
- Consider wind speeds and advise aerial applicators not to apply if wind speeds are over 10 – 15 miles per hour to ensure accuracy.
- Check-in with seed dealers and applicators to ensure smooth delivery of seed.
- Don't forget to take pictures of planting! This is a good opportunity for farmer profiles, program promotion, and general outreach.
- Connect farmers with additional resources to ensure successful cover crop management.
  - Does the farmer have a plan to terminate the cover crop in the spring?
  - Is there a local trusted advisor / cover crop expert the FLG would like to consult with?
  - Does your organization or a partner organization have an agronomist or CCA on staff who can provide guidance?

Steps to Success:

1. **Identify total acres for each FLG and subtotals of acres for each seed mix. Confirm totals with the FLG.**
2. **Submit orders for each mix to the selected seed dealers.**
   - Share the NRCS PLS rates for each seed mix with the seed dealer. Provide the most accurate acreage available, with an option to increase at the same cost if needed. Ordering 95% of the expected acreage is usually a good estimate to avoid a significant amount of leftover seed.
   - To avoid leftover seed, look for seed dealers who accept returns (can be difficult with custom mixes) or have a local storage facility, so seed is mixed/available on an as-needed basis. With a more flexible funding source, there may be an option to give leftover seed to the farmer for their use.
3. **Meet with the seed applicator(s) before seeding takes place.**
   - Communicate program expectations to applicator(s).
   - Ensure applicator(s) understand the required seeding rates, reporting data, and deadlines.
   - **Applicators should report total pounds of seed applied and acres planted.**
4. **Coordinate seed delivery between seed dealer(s) and applicator(s). See "Establish Contracts" section for additional coordination tips.**
5. **LSO shares maps and field information with aerial applicators.**
6. **LSO shares farmers' contact information with applicator(s). Applicators should notify farmers in advance of seeding fields, ideally giving 24 hour notice.**
   - Alternatively, in the application the FLG can ask farmers to give permission for their fields to be planted even if the applicator can't reach them.
7. **Track seeded fields to ensure they are completed by established deadlines. If any fields are not seeded, notify the farmer and identify alternative seeding options if available.**
   - Seeded acres can be tracked in a GIS portal or a shared spreadsheet with farmer and field information.

Verify, Pay, and Plan for Next Year

Complete 1 month following implementation.

Clear and timely verification processes are needed to meet funder requirements and ensure that seed dealers and custom applicators are paid promptly. Gather feedback from all parties to identify improvements for next year.

Objective:

- ***Verify cover crops were successfully established.***
- ***Complete payment for seed and application.***
- ***Gather feedback and identify improvements for the future.***

Important Considerations:

- What were the planting conditions for that localized region? Drought, flood, etc. will have an effect on the emergence percentages. Track and keep notes on weather conditions for evaluation of cover crop establishment success.
- Drone seeding cover crops is a relatively new technology and there is uncertainty on establishment rates of this seeding method.
- Provide on-going support needed by farmers regarding termination, nutrient management, and related cover crop management to ensure continued success.
- What changes would the FLG like to make to improve the program for the next year?

Making a small change may not feel like much, but as a group, we can have a big impact on water quality and soil health.

Steps to Success:

1. **Verify that cover crops were planted - this may include physical inspection of a portion of the fields, reviewing documentation from the applicators, and / or conversations with farmers.**
2. **Designated TSP completes and submits the NRCS IR (Job Sheet) Forms. Only one form is needed per seed mix for each field.**
3. **The prepared IR Forms are signed by the local NRCS office after the following has taken place:**
   - Cover crops have been seeded.
   - Bills and seed tags have been turned in.
   - PLS is verified to meet NRCS standards and specifications.
4. **NRCS performs verification to ensure seeding in the correct fields and correct acres.**
   - Spot check 10% of the fields for expected emergence.
5. **Offer resources or TA, if available, to farmers on cover crop termination in the spring.**
6. **Gather photos of fields with emerging cover crops, if possible.**
7. **Send out farmer survey to evaluate farmer satisfaction and identify areas of improvement for the following year.**

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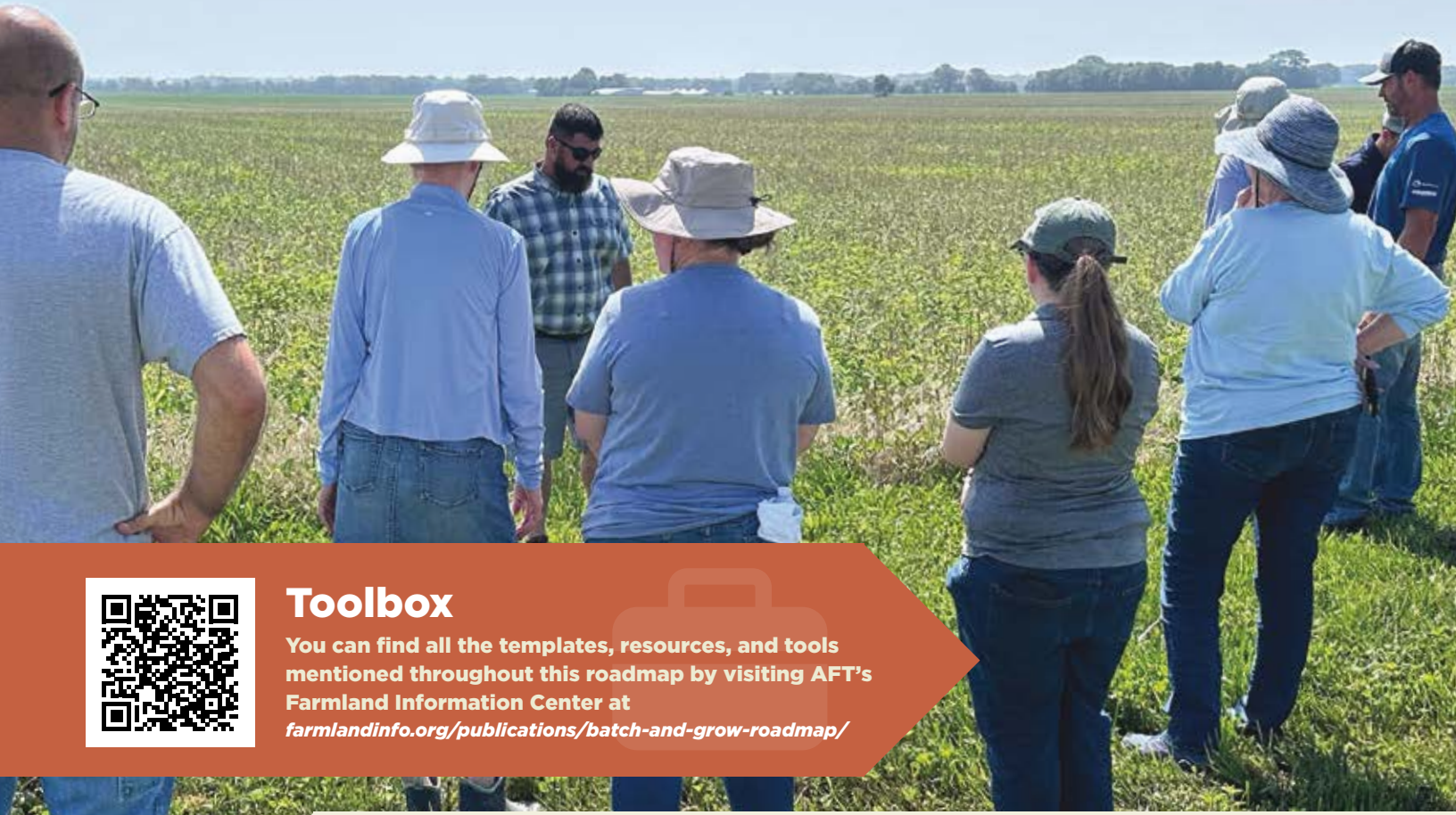
Acknowledgment

Portions of this document were reviewed and made better with contributions from

- Craig Ficenec and Haleigh Summers – Sand County Foundation
- Eric Schmechel, Allisen Freihage, and Scott Hendricks – Dubuque County Watersheds
- Rachel Lechuga and Casey Kula – American Farmland Trust
- Lora Scott – Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Dan Schaefer – Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association
- Will Jaquinde – Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Malina Przygoda – Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Beth Baranski – Jo Daviess County Soil and Water Health Coalition



Toolbox

You can find all the templates, resources, and tools mentioned throughout this roadmap by visiting AFT's Farmland Information Center at *farmlandinfo.org/publications/batch-and-grow-roadmap/*

American Farmland Trust is grateful for the financial support and partnership of the following entities

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